

fishermen in the counties of Hertford and Bertie do not rely heavily on commercial fishing and it is likely that the participants in these counties supplement their commercial fishing income and are employed in other sectors. Johnson and Orbach (1996) report that other careers for full-time commercial fishermen statewide include contractors, carpenters, construction workers or repair workers.

The data in this report also indicate that commercial fishermen compose a small portion of the total workforce for the state of North Carolina and that the average commercial fishermen earns less than the average worker in North Carolina (Table 115). However, the data in this report also indicate that the same trends are highly variable across the coastal fishing counties. Hyde County had the largest percentage of the workforce composed of commercial fishermen in 2001 with 8% while Carteret, Dare, Pamlico and Tyrrell had almost 4% of their workforce composed of commercial fishermen. No other coastal fishing county had greater than 2% of their workforce composed of commercial fishermen. However as a region, commercial fishermen composed approximately 1.02%-1.40% of the workforce in all of the coastal fishing

Table 115. Income and employment characteristics of North Carolina from 1994-2001.

Year	No. of Dealers	No. of Vessels ¹	No. of LICs issued	No. of Fishermen ¹	Avg. Annual Employment ² For All Industries	% of Work-force ⁴	Avg. Fishing Income ¹	Avg. Annual Wage per Worker ²	% of Annual Wage ⁵
1994	613	4,541	6,670	4,214	3,439,920	0.12%	\$10,686	\$23,460	45.55%
1995	717	6,626	7,535	4,479	3,473,550	0.13%	\$10,177	\$24,403	41.70%
1996	713	4,594	7,646	4,293	3,618,270	0.12%	\$10,752	\$25,410	42.31%
1997	708	5,572	8,059	5,057	3,702,990	0.14%	\$20,582	\$26,684	77.13%
1998	737	4,903	8,475	4,458	3,667,160	0.12%	\$20,770	\$28,176	73.72%
1999	760	5,141	NA ³	3,618	3,746,430	0.10%	\$11,223	\$29,462	38.09%
2000	697	6,395	9,557	4,788	3,814,320	0.13%	\$21,581	\$31,068	69.46%
2001	706	6,079	9,535	4,833	3,773,550	0.13%	\$17,626	\$32,026	55.04%

¹ Number of fishermen, vessels and average fishing income was determined using Trip Ticket Data and only accounts for participants who recorded landings during 1994-2001 and is based on residence.

² Data obtained from the North Carolina Employment Security Commission Labor Market website <http://www.ncesc.com/> and the North Carolina State Data Center LINC website <http://linc.state.nc.us/>

³ Due to the change of the license system in the middle of 1999, an accurate number of licenses issued for that year is difficult to determine

⁴ Number of Fishermen / Avg. Annual Employment * 100

⁵ Average fishing income / Average Annual Wage Per Worker * 100